

C1  
concl  
pressing the ceramic layered structure in the recess between the bottom plate and a top die and applying lateral force via the plurality of thrust mechanisms on outer faces of the sidewalls in directions toward the recess.

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Add the following new claims:

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C2  
--20. The method of claim 14, wherein the ceramic layered structure is pressed in the recess between the bottom plate and the top die and the lateral force is applied via the plurality of thrust mechanisms on outer faces of the sidewalls in directions toward the recess simultaneously.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the bottom plate includes a step formed at its periphery, and the sidewalls are fitted to the step.--.

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#### REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 14-19. Favorable action is requested for claims 20-21.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on grounds of double patenting. Claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 14-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,867,002 to Zalozecky. Zalozecky discloses a press for forming a molded object having an open top. As described at Col. 3, lines 19-28, a ram is forced into molding material so that the material fills the space surrounding the ram.